

introduce a scheme of voluntary insurance of buildings, goods vehicles and public service vehicles against war risks is under consideration.

**Bridge across Hooghly**

\*750. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra;**  
**Shri N. P. Yadav:**

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has favoured the construction of a new bridge across the Hooghly to connect Calcutta with Howrah; and

(b) if so, whether it will be a rail or road or rail-cum-road bridge?

**The Minister of Planning (Shri B. E. Bhagat):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will be a road bridge.

**Bird and Co.**

\*754. **Dr. Ranon Sen:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 528 on the 9th September, 1965 and state whether the fines imposed on M/s. Bird and Co., and some of its topmen have been recovered?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Rameshwar Sahu):** Out of the total penalty of Rs. 1,65,35,000 imposed on M/s. Bird & Co., their associate firms and the persons concerned in the case, a sum of Rs. 47,65,000 has been recovered so far.

**Indian Oxygen Ltd., Calcutta**

\*756. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1689 on the 25th April, 1960 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Indian Oxygen Ltd., Calcutta propose to issue 9,80,000 new ordinary shares of Rs. 10 each out of which 5,88,000

shares are to be offered to the British Oxygen Co. Ltd., London;

(b) if so, whether Government's approval has been given to capital issue on these terms; and

(c) if so, whether this does not amount to violation of Government's earlier assurance that further and further Indian participation in this Company would be encouraged?

**The Minister of Planning (Shri B. E. Bhagat):** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No, Sir. In this issue, the participation of the British Oxygen Ltd. is 60 per cent and the percentage of the total holdings of the British company has been reduced though marginally.

**Location of Major Projects**

\*757. **Shri P. C. Borooah;**  
**Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:**

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have asked for the comments of the Central and State Governments for guidance in deciding the locations of major projects, wholly by economic and technical considerations so as to maximise the use of indigenous resources, rather than insisting on a wide dispersal of industries for promoting a regional balance in economic growth; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

**The Minister of Planning (Shri B. E. Bhagat):** (a) and (b). The locational policy for major industrial undertakings was discussed by the N.D.C. Committee on Industry, Power and Transport. The Committee recommended that in the case of public sector, while heavy and basic projects based on raw materials, power etc. should be located on economic considerations, reasonable alternatives should be examined for other projects and those which help to develop backward areas as well as make up imbalances in d-

velopment should be preferred. The Planning Commission is in agreement with the views expressed by the N.D.C. Committee.

**Drinking Water Supply for Madras City**

\*758. Dr. P. Srinivasan: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to augment supply of drinking water to the Madras City from Cauvery source has been finalised;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) if not, when the project is likely to be finalised?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government propose to start work on this Scheme during the Fourth Five Year Plan period. As detailed plans and estimates have not been worked out so far, it is not possible to indicate as to when this Scheme would be finalised.

**D.A. to Central Government Employees**

\*759. Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Shri Bagri:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the abnormal rise in prices in recent months, the average consumer price index has gone up;

(b) if so, the latest available average consumer price index;

(c) whether Government have decided to increase the dearness allowance of Central Government employees to neutralise the rise in prices;

(d) if so, the slab of pay upto which the increase is proposed to be given;

(e) whether it is a fact that due to the abnormal rise in prices, there is discontentment and frustration among the low-paid employees; and

(f) if so, in what way Government propose to remove their genuine financial hardships?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The twelve-monthly average at the end of October, 1965 was 164.92.

(c) According to the Pay Commission formula, the next review of the rates of Dearness Allowance admissible to Central Government Servants is due only when the twelve-monthly average reaches 165.

(d) Does not arise at present.

(e) and (f). Low-paid employees have been granted dearness compensation from time to time to relieve hardship. Rates of D.A. were raised twice in 1964 with effect from 1st February and 1st October when the 12-monthly average registered 135 and 145.9 points respectively. Rates were again increased with effect from March this year when the average went up to 155.8.

**Rural Electric Co-operatives**

\*760. Shri Himatsingka:  
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:  
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have under consideration a scheme to intensify rural electrification works through rural electric supply co-operatives;

(b) if so, its main features; and

(c) when it is likely to be introduced?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.